

Appln. No. 09/826,690
Reply to Office Action dated July 27, 2006

Docket No. 6994-1
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IN THE CLAIMS:

APR 30 2007

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Claims 1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (new) A method for admission to a graduate school, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying a pool of standardized test takers who possess a GPA and standardized test score that are insufficient to gain regular admission to a graduate school and who did not initially apply to the graduate school, wherein the identifying step is enabled by a computer product;

offering a program for admission to the graduate school to the identified test takers, wherein the program for admission includes an abbreviated academic program;

providing instruction in at least one academic discipline to the test takers who accept the offer to participate in the program for admission;

subjecting test takers in the program for admission to at least one examination during the abbreviated academic program, each test taker in the program for admission achieving a score on the at least one examination, wherein each score is assigned using a calibrated grading process; and

admitting into the graduate school those test takers who achieve a score on said at least one examination which exceeds a pre-determined score deemed to correlate with academic success at the graduate school.

24. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the abbreviated academic program does not count for credit toward graduation from the graduate school

25. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the pre-determined score deemed to correlate with academic success at the academic institution is the final exam grade for regularly admitted students at the graduate school who have taken a course covering the at least one academic discipline.

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26. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the entire abbreviated academic program, including instruction and testing, is five to seven weeks in duration.

27. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the entire abbreviated academic program, including instruction and testing, is five weeks in duration.

28. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the standardized test is selected from the group comprising the law school admissions test (LSAT), medical college admissions test (MCAT), dental admissions test (DAT), veterinary college admissions test (VCAT), pharmacy college admissions test (PCAT), allied health programs admissions test (AHPAT), graduate record examination (GRE), and the graduate management admission test (GMAT).

29. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein at least one of the at least one examinations is an essay examination.

30. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein said identifying step further comprises the steps of:

computing a shifting range of standardized test scores and grade point averages (GPAs) for said pool of test takers; and

identifying from said pool of test takers, those test takers having a standardized test score and GPA falling within said shifting range.

31. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein said subjecting step further comprises, for each test taker, using scores for said at least one examination to calculate a composite score, wherein the admitting step uses a pre-determined composite score deemed to correlate with academic success at the graduate school.

32. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein said abbreviated academic program comprises the step of providing asynchronous instruction in the at least one academic discipline to said test takers.

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33. (new) The method of claim 32, wherein said step of providing asynchronous instruction comprises the steps of:

delivering electronic instructional content to remotely situated test takers;
receiving classroom work-product from said remotely situated test takers; and
forwarding said received classroom work-product to at least one instructor.

34. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein said abbreviated academic program comprises the step of providing synchronous instruction in the at least one academic discipline to said test takers.

35. (new) The method of claim 34, wherein said step of providing synchronous instruction comprises the steps of:

delivering on-line instructional content to remotely situated test takers; and
moderating on-line participation between said remotely situated test takers and at least one instructor.

36. (new) The method of claim 35, wherein said subjecting step further comprises the steps of:

delivering at least one on-line examination to said test takers situated in a remote testing facility;
proctoring said examination at said remote testing facility; and
factoring resulting scores for said at least one on-line examination into said composite score.

37. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the graduate school is a law school and the standardized test takers have taken the Law School Admissions Test (LSAT).

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38. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein said identifying step comprises the steps of:

computing a shifting range of LSAT scores and undergraduate grade point averages (UGPAs) for said test takers;

identifying those LSAT test takers having an LSAT score and UGPA falling within said shifting range; and

the program for admission comprises an abbreviated law school program at the law school.

39. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein said subjecting step comprises:

administering at least one law school examination to said LSAT test takers during an abbreviated law school program;

scoring said at least one law school examination based on a calibrated grading process; and

for each LSAT test taker, using scores from said at least one law school examination to calculate a composite score.

40. (new) The method of claim 38, wherein the shifting range of LSAT scores and UGPAs comprises:

LSAT	LSDAS GPA	Self-Reported GPA
130-135	2.80-4.33	3.00-3.49, 3.50-3.74, 3.75+
136-140	2.60-4.33	3.00-3.49, 3.50-3.74, 3.75+
141-145	2.25-2.80	2.50-2.99

41. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein the shifting range of LSAT scores and UGPAs comprises:

LSAT	LSDAS GPA	Self-Reported GPA
130-135	2.80-4.33	3.00-3.49, 3.50-3.74, 3.75+
136-140	2.60-4.33	3.00-3.49, 3.50-3.74, 3.75+
141-145	2.25-2.80	2.50-2.99

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42. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the calibrated grading process comprises the steps of:

calibrating graders using a calibrated grading process; and,
subjecting said at least one examination to said calibrated grading process, wherein a score is assigned to each of said at least one examinations; and
calculating an examination score for each test taker by combining each test taker's scores for each of said at least one examination to form a composite score.

43. (new) A method for admission to a graduate school, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying a pool of standardized test takers who possess a GPA and standardized test score that are insufficient to gain regular admission to a graduate school and who did not initially apply to the graduate school, wherein the identifying step is enabled by a computer product;
electronically registering selected ones of said identified test takers in an abbreviated academic program, wherein the program for admission includes an abbreviated academic program, wherein said abbreviated academic program does not count for credit toward graduation from the academic institution;

providing instruction in at least one academic discipline to the test takers in the program for admission

administering at least one examination over a computer communications network to said registered test takers during said abbreviated academic program, each registered test taker achieving a score on said at least one examination, each test taker achieving a score on said at least one examination, wherein each score is assigned using a calibrated grading process; and

electronically admitting to the first academic institution those registered test takers who achieve a score on said at least one examination which exceeds a pre-determined composite score deemed to correlate with academic success at the academic institution.

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44. (new) A method for identifying standardized test takers possessing a GPA and standardized test score that are insufficient to gain regular admission to a graduate school who would perform at the level of higher scoring test takers if admitted to the graduate school, said method comprising the steps of:

identifying a pool of standardized test takers who possess a GPA and standardized test score that are insufficient to gain regular admission to a graduate school and who did not initially apply to the graduate school, wherein the identifying step is enabled by a computer product;

offering a program for admission to the graduate school to the identified test takers, wherein the program for admission includes an abbreviated academic program;

providing instruction in at least one academic discipline to the test takers who accept the offer to participate in the program for admission;

subjecting test takers in the program for admission to at least one examination during the abbreviated academic program, each test taker in the program for admission achieving a score on the at least one examination, wherein each score is assigned using a calibrated grading process; and

admitting into the graduate school those test takers who achieve a score on said at least one examination which exceeds a pre-determined score deemed to correlate with academic success at the graduate school.